

Docket No. 741118-57

IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED OFFICE

In re INTERNATIONAL Application of

Bernd WEYERSTALL et al.

International Application No. PCT/DE01/01273

International Filing Date: 29 March 2001

For: MOTOR VEHICLE DOOR LOCK SYSTEM WITH SPEED UNLOCKING

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to entry into the U.S. National Phase and calculation of the National Phase Examination fees, please amend the above-captioned application as set forth below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the specification with the substitute specification appended hereto.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the new Abstract of the Disclosure appended hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the recitation "Claims" preceding claim 1 to read --We claim--.

Please cancel claims 1-6 in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer.

Please add new claims 7-22 as follows:

--7. A motor vehicle door lock system for a vehicle with a vehicle lock, comprising:

a lock element adapted to move between a locked position and an unlocked position;

an interlock drive and a drive element adapted to move the lock element between the locked position and the unlocked position;

control electronics adapted to command the interlock drive to move the lock element in response to a signal from a remote control module;

a clutch between the drive element and the interlock drive, wherein the clutch only engages the interlock drive to the drive element at a predetermined minimum rpm of the interlock drive, wherein the clutch is adapted to allow manual movement of the lock element by the drive element; and

a speed unlocking element positioned between the interlock drive and the clutch, wherein the speed unlocking element is adapted to immediately unlock the lock system in response to the command from the control electronics to the interlock drive.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the speed unlocking system is adapted to unlock the lock system by moving the lock element from the locked position and the unlocked position.

9. The system of claim 7, further comprising a downstream lock element which is adapted to move between a locked position and an unlocked position, and wherein the speed unlocking system is adapted to unlock the lock system by moving the downstream lock element from the locked position to the unlocked position.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the speed unlocking element is adapted to be moved by the downstream lock element out of a rest position into an actuation position, when the downstream lock element has been reset from the unlocked position into the locked position.

11. The system of claim 7, wherein the control electronics includes a passive entry system.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the passive entry system of the control electronics provides a starting interval, an authorization check interval and an action interval.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the motor vehicle lock is unlocked during the action interval.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the starting interval is adapted to be initiated in response to a signal from the remote control module.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the action interval is adapted to be initiated by a hand of an operator actuating an outside door handle on the vehicle.

16. The system of claim 7, wherein the interlock drive is an electrical central interlock drive.

17. The system of claim 7, wherein the drive element is a slow-running drive element.

18. The system of claim 7, wherein the clutch is a centrifugal clutch.

19. The system of claim 7, wherein the speed unlocking element is adapted to be moved by the interlock drive out of a rest position into an actuation position

20. The system of claim 7, wherein the speed unlocking element is adapted to be moved by the lock element out of a rest position into an actuation position, when the lock element has been reset from the unlocked position into the locked position.

21. The system of claim 7, wherein the lock element is adapted to be entrained by interlocking by the drive element and in the opposite direction via releasable locking.

22. The system of claim 7, wherein the speed unlocking system comprises a spring snap element which is adapted to be released by the interlock drive, wherein the snap spring element snaps into an actuation position under spring force.--

REMARKS

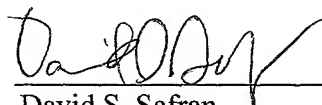
By the above actions, the specification, claims and abstract have all been replaced in order to place this application in better form for initial U.S. national examination. In this regard, it is noted that the appended substitute specification contains no new matter and a mark-up copy of the specification showing the change made is also appended hereto as required.

Applicant now respectfully requests National Phase examination of the above-identified invention. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application or believes that any further actions would help expedite the prosecution thereof, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 15, 2002

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A motor vehicle door lock system with a vehicle lock, which can be locked and unlocked by a motor, includes a lock element which can be moved between a locked position and an unlocked position, and a central interlock drive with a slow-running drive element with which the lock element can be moved, with control electronics with a passive entry function, a speed unlocking element and a remote control module for the operator. The motor vehicle door lock system includes a clutch which engages only with a minimum rpm, which ensures that the lock element can be easily moved by hand with the central interlock drive stationary. The speed unlocking element is assigned to the central interlock drive on this side of the clutch and can be immediately actuated by the central interlock drive upon starting. The speed unlocking element immediately moves the lock element or an element of the lock mechanism downstream of it, the central interlock drive follows up, with the clutch engaged, more slowly into the unlocked position or via the unlocked position in to the next rest position when actuated out of the locked position into the unlocked position.

MARK-UP OF THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Abstract

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~The subject matter of the invention is a~~ A motor vehicle door lock system with a vehicle lock (2), which can be locked and unlocked by a motor, ~~with~~ includes a lock element (10) which can be moved between a locked position and an unlocked position, and a central interlock drive (12) with a slow-running drive element (13) with which the lock element (10) can be moved, with control electronics (3) with a passive entry function, as speed unlocking element and a remote control module (5) for the operator. ~~In the motor vehicle door lock system as claimed in the invention it is first of all provided that between the central interlock drive (12) and the drive element (13) there is~~ includes a clutch (14) which engages only with a ~~the beginning of minimum rpm, especially in the form of a centrifugal clutch, which~~ ensures that the lock element (10) can be easily moved by hand with the central interlock drive (12) stationary. ~~Speed unlocking is possible in that~~ The speed unlocking element (15) is assigned to the central interlock drive (12) on this side of the clutch (14) and can be immediately actuated by the central interlock drive (12) upon starting, ~~that~~ The speed unlocking element immediately (15) moves the lock element (10) or an element of the lock mechanism downstream of it when actuated ~~immediately~~ out of the locked position into the unlocked position, and that the central interlock drive (12) follows up, with the clutch (14) engaged, accordingly more slowly into the unlocked position or via the unlocked position into the next rest position.

(Figure 3)